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# The Maricopa

## Customs, Arts, and Beliefs

101 131 The Maricopa are a small tribe of Yuman stock living as neighbors of the Pima, chiefly in the valley of the Gila in southern Arizona, though a few make their home on the Salt River reservation east of Phoenix. Maricopa, Yuma, and Mohave tra- 101 178 dition, while vague on the subject, relates that the Maricopa once lived on the Colorado river between the Mohave and the Yuma. Possibly they were a part of the latter, rather than a separate tribe. Enemies of both the Yuma and the Mohave, they were gradually forced from their home country to the Gila and up that stream. Their removal from the Colorado to their pres- [167] ent home was not accomplished at one time, but represented a [648] series of movements up the Gila, until eventually an alliance was made with their old-time enemies, the Pima -- an alliance of great benefit to both tribes, for it enabled them more successfully to resist the marauding Apache. The Maricopa separation was much more recent than that of the Havasupai and Walapai [144] from the parent body, for the Maricopa still bear close physical resemblance to their Yuma and Mohave kindred. Furthermore, the mythology of the Maricopa also indicates comparatively recent association with these two tribes. When noted by Father Garcés, in 1775, they had not progressed farther eastward than Gila Bend.

177 The mythological, ceremonial, and religious concepts of the Maricopa, although primarily Yuman, show some effect of their close contact with the Pima. In mode of living they are much like their neighbors, and show few traces of their Yuman ancestry. /82/ Morally, too, they differ widely from the Yuma, being exceedingly strict, while the latter are notoriously lax. The [285] Pima type of dwelling was adopted by them, and their knowledge of basketry evidently came from the same source, for this art, although exhibiting somewhat greater skill in execution, shows identity in form, design, and material with that of the Pima. 323 They make a great deal of pottery: large jars for storing water 415 in the houses, smaller ones for carrying water on the head, and [482] cooking pots of many sizes.